to the existing instructions on entitlements in use of staff cars, official hospitality, entitlement of the scale of personal staff, foreign travel, telephones etc.

Excise duty from tyres and tubes

1548. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether excise duty from tyres and tubes is one of the significant sources of revenue for the exchequer;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government lost Rs. 2160 crores due to excise duty on tyres and tubes during 1997—2000;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps are being taken to raise the collection of revenue on this account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of answer to (b) above.

Tax Collection

1549. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:

SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the direct and indirect tax collections have taken a dip even after massive restructuring were carried out in these services to give officials better career prospects; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN):

(a) and (b) Sir, direct and indirect tax collections during the first six months of the current financial year has provisionally amounted to Rs. 77422 crores, as